

Anglican Church of Canada

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

# HISTORICAL NOTES

*by*

T. B. HIGGINSON



COMBINED PARISH OF

ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR, MAGNETAWAN

ALL SAINTS', BURKS FALLS

GRACE CHURCH, SOUTH RIVER

ST. PAUL'S, SUNDRIDGE

AND

ST. JOHN'S, EAGLE LAKE

OLD RECTORY PRESS

### *Introduction*

I should like to thank all those who have helped with this little sketch, including His Grace Archbishop Wright; Canon Sutherland of All Saints', Huntsville; Rev. L. E. C. Frith, of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, Bracebridge; our own able and energetic rector, Rev. A. R. Cuyler; and especially to Miss Bessie Quirt, of Orillia, who wrote the history of St. John's Church, Eagle Lake, and to a former incumbent of St. Paul's, Sundridge, Rev. E. D. Eldridge, who wrote the history of that Church. Without their help I do not believe that I would ever have completed this sketch, or even attempted it! Among the laymen, there are Dr. J. J. Talmán, whose pioneer work on the clergy of the Church of England in Upper Canada prior to 1840 first interested me in this fascinating subject, and Mrs. Belle Pridmore, Archivist of the S. P. G., who has been more than kind. Locally, I would record my gratitude to Mr. Arthur Church of Sundridge, Mr. Alfred Woolgar of Burks Falls, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Putman of Magnetawan, Mrs. J. L. Baxter, Mrs. Robert Code and Miss Kate Bottomley of South River, and a special vote of thanks to Mrs. Phyllis Barr for her good work with the typescript.

And I would dedicate this little work to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (better known as the S. P. G., who sent out our first missionaries and, in the case of All Saints', for example, helped as late as 1931); to the memory of those missionaries, especially Rev. William Crompton, founder of twenty-two churches in Muskoka and Parry Sound, including St. George's and All Saints'; Rev. George Gander, founder of St. John's, St. Paul's and Grace Church; and their successors in this parish to the present time.

## ST. GEORGE'S — MAGNETAWAN

Services were held in Magnetawan as early as 1880 by the Reverend William Crompton. At that time it was the centre of a Mission which included St. Paul's, Seguin Falls; St. John's, Dufferin Bridge; Holy Trinity, Pearceley; and St. Peter's, Midlothian. Some idea of the heroic labours performed by Rev. Mr. Crompton may be gained from the following description of two services in 1881. "Sunday, October 2nd, was a very cold and stormy one. Just as I was going to service in Magnetawan Church at 2 p.m., I was told by the churchwarden that some parents were coming a great distance to have their children baptized. Knowing that the lake (Se-sebe) was exceedingly rough, I waited half an hour, but as I had another service ten miles away at 7 p.m., I could wait no longer. We had a goodly congregation of about fifty and a hearty service. We were leaving the church when we saw people coming along waving their handkerchiefs; it proved to be the parents and their friends . . . (the father) had rowed thirteen miles down the lake in real danger. . . I got to Midlothian with eight minutes to spare. No time so much as to eat, but just to wash my hands and go in to service. I had about sixty-seven adults at service, eight of whom had come eight, and four thirteen miles."

In July 1884 the Reverend Arthur John Young became the first resident minister at Magnetawan, and his name must ever be associated with St. George's. Almost forty years later we find him taking services in the summer, when no other minister was in charge. He was ordained deacon on Ascension Day, 1885, and priest on Trinity Sunday, 1886. An interesting note on his salary is that, previous to his ordination in 1885, he received \$400. per annum, and afterwards, as deacon, \$600., towards which the S. P. G. contributed 50 pounds, and the mission in money and kind, \$100. (the rest from the Diocesan treasury). Rev. Mr. Young remained until March, 1892. During his time the church, St. George-the-Martyr, was consecrated (1887). Wardens mentioned are Mr. Hugh Irwin and Mr. C. Flintoff; also Mr. Tarrant, Mr. Weeks and Mr. Piper.

Following this pioneer pastor were Rev. D. A. Johnson, 1896-99, and Rev. W. H. French, 1899-1905. In Rev. French's time the Church of St. Andrew, Dunchurch, which had been added to the Magnetawan mission, and St. Peter's, Midlothian, were consecrated by the Bishop on the same day, Sept. 24, 1902. Rev. French was followed by Rev. S. F. Yeomans. Next came Rev. P. F. Bull, 1909-12, and Rev. W. H. Trickett, 1913. On Feb. 14, 1915, the Rev.

J. Thompson, a priest from the Diocese of New Westminster, B.C., was inducted by Bishop Thornloe. This is believed to have been the first induction service ever held in St. George's. During 1917 extensive repairs to the parsonage were made, and the Hall, built in 1887 without proper foundation, was torn down.

On Sept. 2, 1921, Rev. W. F. Smith arrived at the mission. His first reaction was, "*The faithful are few.*" On leaving, some five years later, he made the more encouraging comment, "*The few are faithful.*" Among them must be reckoned the wardens, Mr. H. Snuggs and Mr. John Bryon. At Dunchurch, wardens at this time were T. H. Johnson and William Todd, who are described as very energetic workers.

Soon after this, Magnetawan was added to the Burks Falls Mission, and the names of subsequent clergy may be found under All Saints'.

In 1934 there were 26 services at Midlothian and 20 services at Magnetawan. In 1952 St. Andrew's, Dunchurch, was renovated after a long period of disuse, and we find that in 1957 there were 40 services there as compared with 25 at Magnetawan. (Midlothian by this time had been closed). In 1961 there were 44 services at Magnetawan and only 4 at Dunchurch, leading to the closing of the latter. Such are the vicissitudes of churches.

One more note must be added. In the Register of St. George's, under date of August 29, 1953, we find the following entry: "This church now has an *American Flag* . . . It is to signify that the people of the United States wish to worship with those of Canada." We welcome to all churches in the parish our American friends, as well as fellow Canadians who are summer residents.

#### ALL SAINTS' — BURKS FALLS

The story of the founding of All Saints' is best told in the words of its founder, Reverend Wm. Crompton, in his report to the S. P. G.

"September 29th, 1882. It has been my privilege during this last Quarter to open for Divine Service the sixteenth building which God has enabled me to plant. This was at Burks Falls on Sunday, August 26th. Burks Falls was an unknown spot six years ago, and was, only two years since, on the verge of civilization; now it

is a rising village containing about a dozen houses, and is the centre of a well-settled district of country. The site of the church is a beautiful one and was specially chosen by Bishop Fauquier during the only visit he paid to this out-post of his diocese. The church is erected on a high hill, altho' of very easy access. Looking through the eastern windows you can see far away across Armour into Bethune about fourteen miles; turn and look to the west and you can distinguish clearly Maple Hill, seventeen miles away, near to which is our church of St. Peter, Midlothian, so that, if ever the congregation can succeed in erecting a spire, the gilt cross thereon will be a beacon in a country of over thirty-one miles in extent, over hill and dale, reminding one very forcibly of some of the views in Derbyshire or the north of Devon.

"The appeals I have made in England furnished me with the means to purchase the site and to raise the building. Much help has come towards this object thro' the S. P. G. publishing my reports, for the which I can never be sufficiently grateful. A good Altar Cloth, Linen, and Service Books have been sent, but alas! we have no communion vessels, surplice or stole. The church is entirely free of debt, as I will not officiate in one in my district so long as there may be any debt upon it. The name of the church is "*All Saints*", and it consists of nave 40 ft. x 20 ft. with an Apse 8 ft. deep at East End. A platform across the church and 8 ft. deep makes a good chancel. There is a Vestry 12 ft. x 12 ft. and a South Porch 8 ft. x 10 ft. Of course everything is in the rough, no plane being used except for window frames and doors, but it has a most church-like appearance.

"The day of opening the church was a red-letter day at Burks Falls, most of the villagers being members and from England, and it was determined that "*open house*" should be kept for all comers. The weather was everything that could be desired. From an early hour in the morning the arrivals commenced, friends coming 6, 7, 16 and 23 miles to take part in the joyful occasion."

This first church building was destined to have a very short life, as it was destroyed by fire in the summer of 1884. Shortly afterwards, the mission was entrusted to the Rev. W. B. Magnan, a graduate of Trinity College, Toronto, in whose time the second *All Saints*' was built on the site of the first. (An interesting link with *All Saints*', Huntsville, is that Rev. Magnan was married there December 29, 1884, to Lizzy Llwyd, daughter of Rev. Thomas Llwyd, first rector of Huntsville.)

The second missionary here was the Rev. Francis Jephcott, who was a Medical Doctor as well as a clergyman, and who had served in Gladstone, Manitoba, before coming to Burks Falls in 1887. He wrote to the S. P. G.: "You have no idea what this country is like, only here and there a few acres chopped out of the solid forest. I have often not time to eat, distances are so great, roads so bad, churches so many to attend to. I walk generally all over my mission." (At the rate of 5000 miles a year!)

He was followed by the Rev. Eustace A. Vesey, a graduate of the Montreal Theological College, who served 1888-90. During his time Sundridge was joined with Burks Falls. This arrangement continued under the next missionaries, Rev. P. G. Robinson, 1890-92, and Rev. Charles Piercey, 1893-98. Rev. Mr. Piercey had been the pioneer missionary at Sudbury before coming here. He was deeply interested in education and served as Chairman of the Burks Falls Public School Board. After leaving here, he was made a Canon, and served for many years as editor of Diocesan papers, including the Algoma Missionary News (A.M.N.).

Following him came Rev. Caleb Buckland (1898-1901), Rev. A. C. Mackintosh (1901-02), and Rev. Charles John Machin (1904-05). Rev. Mr. Machin was an Honorary Missionary. He had been the pioneer Anglican clergyman at Port Arthur (1885-92), and served also at Gravenhurst and Beaumaris before coming here.

We now come to one of the most interesting incumbents of All Saints' — Canon Arthur Henry Allman. Born in England, he had served at Port Sydney, Uffington and Emsdale before coming here in 1905. In preparation, a new rectory was purchased (now the Old Rectory!). The A.M.N. had this to say: "Under Rural Dean Allman, who takes charge May 1st, there is every likelihood of a forward movement in the mission", and in April, 1906, it reported: "The newly acquired parsonage is a great comfort."

This pleasant state of affairs was rudely shattered June 20, 1908, when All Saints' was destroyed by fire, along with a great part of Burks Falls. It was decided to rebuild on a new site, opposite the Rectory, and the present church edifice was opened with appropriate ceremonies on All Saints' Day, 1909. Among the visiting clergy was the Rev. C. W. Balfour, of All Saints', Huntsville.

In 1914 Canon Allman delivered a series of six lectures on Church History, which were printed by *The Arrow*. Bishop Thoruloe paid tribute to the author in a foreword.

His farewell service was held on December 8, 1918. One of the stained glass windows in the church remains as a memorial to him and to Mrs. Allman, as well as to their parents.

He was succeeded by Canon Sidney F. Yeomans (1919-23), who has a unique distinction in the combined parish in that he had served at Magnetawan, and was later to serve at Sundridge. His daughter, Mrs. F. G. Beecher, of Fort William, has given me some interesting details of their life here.

He was succeeded by Rev. George Hilliard Phillips, who was destined to have the longest ministry in the history of All Saints' (1923-38). Rev. Mr. Phillips was a skilled worker in wood, and the present pulpit is both an example of his work and a memorial to him. Perhaps the most important development in his time was the building of the Church Hall in 1929 as a memorial to the Henry Knight family who contributed five hundred dollars towards its cost. It is a pleasure to note that when Rev. and Mrs. Phillips celebrated their golden wedding on December 8, 1942, some of their friends from Burks Falls were present and gave them a lamp.

His successors were Rev. Ernest Dymond (1938-41), Rev. J. Selwyn Rhodes (1942-47), Rev. F. E. Jewell (1947-56), Rev. E. Raymond Nornabell (1956-60), and Rev. Ross Crighton (1960-62).

This sketch would not be complete without some reference to the laymen who have worked devotedly through the years. The records are incomplete, but one name stands out. For half a century, from 1905, when the A.M.N. states that he was a warden, till his death in 1955, Joseph Hilliar was truly a pillar of the church. A memorial to him and to his wife hangs on one wall. Others who must be mentioned are S. O. Dukelow (Public School Principal), R. Lush, A. Woolgar, and J. Wilson. I must add that in the short time I have been in the parish two men have amply demonstrated their right to be included in this select list. They are Harry May and Ed. Witcombe.

### GRACE CHURCH — SOUTH RIVER

The first years of this church are so bound up with the life of its first clergyman, Reverend George Gander, that I will begin with him. He was born in Belleville, Ontario, February 20, 1851, and graduated from Wycliffe College, Toronto, in 1886. He came to South River soon afterwards and took up residence west of the

village on the old Sundridge road, where he combined farming with his clerical work.

The first service of which a record survives was held on July 3, 1892, when the text was Hebrews 11:7, and the attendance was 48. The first recorded vestry meeting was held in 1893, when W. J. Ard was re-elected Peoples' Warden and W. A. Connolly was re-appointed Clergyman's Warden. These men, and Mr. T. Bottomley, first Sunday School Superintendent and Warden for many years, were outstanding among early laymen.

A fascinating picture of Rev. Mr. Gander's last years in South River is given by a diary which he kept from December 9, 1897 to May 30, 1898. This shows him writing reports to the C. & C. C. S. (the Commonwealth and Continental Church Society), taking services at St. John's, Eagle Lake, and Grace Church, South River, writing, studying, and doing chores, and making monthly mid-week visits to Restoule, whence he returned laden with venison, ham and other gifts. (Among names mentioned on these trips are Mr. Booth, John Clark, Mr. Watson and Mr. Bradley.)

Other entries tell of taking tea with the George Hawthorn and James Hawthorn families at Eagle Lake; taking services at Lynch Lake in Joly Township, where lived three families by the name of Cook, and at Mr. Bagshaw's settlement; and of the wonderful recovery of Mrs. T. Bottomley from severe illness: "*It seemed as if she was brought back to life again.*"

The next year he resigned and left South River. He served at Caledon East and Coboconk, where he was buried, after dying unexpectedly at Lightbourne, Saskatchewan, August 2, 1914.

After he left South River it was ministered to from Sundridge, and the names of succeeding clergy will be found there. In 1903 Grace Church was completely renovated and a new organ bought. The thanks of the Vestry were given to Mr. and Mrs. Ard for their help in this.

In 1906 we find this note: "The Bishop's visitation. Five persons confirmed at Midford (Eagle Lake), and three at South River, making a total of 39 persons confirmed in the Mission while Rev. McKittrick was in charge."

In December, 1918, Grace Church was renovated at a cost of \$200. The Guild gave \$50. and also gave the Bishop's chair. In 1920 the Guild continued their good work, giving a new altar

which was dedicated by the Archbishop of Algoma on March 12, 1921. One of the outstanding women in the church was Miss Edna McGrath who was active in the Guild, organist for years (the present organ is a memorial to her), and even acted as auditor!

In 1928 the Parish Hall was built. This was a large project, and a letter from the Bishop congratulating the congregation on their success was well deserved.

In 1934 we find a motion, typical of many, to which all of us men will subscribe: "Moved that a vote of thanks be tendered the W. A. for their noble work"!

Wardens with long service in the last thirty years include Robert Code, J. L. Baxter, and Frank Waldriff, who was the People's Warden, Treasurer, and Envelope Secretary for six and a half years, up to the time of his death in 1956. Other Wardens have been Fred Kincaid, John Brooks and Earl Mathias.

### ST. PAUL'S — SUNDRIDGE

Anglican services were evidently held in Sundridge prior to 1888. They probably began when Rev. George Gander took up residence in South River in 1887. The records show that at this time there were at least 12 families (Edgar, Croker, Tripp, Davis, Auldjo, Gillespie, Sloan, Reburn, Buckerfield, Grimmer, Smart, Cowan) for a total of approximately 50 adults and children. We know that 26 persons took Holy Communion when the Bishop visited on March 2, 1890.

What was undoubtedly the first Confirmation took place January 13, 1888, when the following four were confirmed: Mrs. Mary Edgar, Charles and Isabella Tripp, Henerietta Moran.

On April 2, 1888, Mr. Joseph Edgar and Mr. John Cowan were elected Church Wardens for the year. A building committee was appointed and it was decided to make preparations for building the church as soon as possible. May 14, 1888, the foundation was laid for the first church with Mr. Wickett superintending the work. The Rev. George Gander was the first clergyman. He ministered to Sundridge from South River. On December 30, 1888, the Bishop of Algoma officially opened the new church and named it St. Paul's. He held 3 services and administered Holy Communion. Offertory was \$29.08.

In 1890 Sundridge was separated from South River and connected with the parish of Burks Falls where Rev. E. A. Vesey was in charge. In December, 1890, he was replaced by Rev. P. Robinson who remained until February, 1892. In May, 1898, Rev. C. Piercey arrived from Sudbury to take charge of the missions of Burks Falls and Sundridge. During his incumbency extensive improvements were made to St. Paul's. On June 17, 1894, (Sunday) St. Paul's was consecrated by Edward, Bishop of Algoma.

In April, 1898, Mr. Piercey resigned and St. Paul's was again connected with the parish of South River, and Rev. G. Gander took services until he resigned in September, 1899. During the next four decades (1900-1940), there were many clergymen. However, the longest ministry in the history of the parish closed out this period. (Mr. Whiteley served 13 years.)

Some of the other clergy were: Rev. E. J. McKittrick (1902-06), Rev. L. A. Trotter (1907-12), Canon E. F. Pinnington (1913-16), Rev. J. Norman (1917-21) and Rev. W. M. Whiteley (1927-40).

A few of the events were: 1911, plans made to install electric lights; 1914, new organ purchased; 1917, Foundation put under the church and vestry; September, 1922, death of Joseph Edgar—over 30 years of devoted service as Warden and S.S. Superintendent. Left endowment of \$1000. for church. His family continues to have the same love and interest for the church.

1924, furnace put under church; May, 1903, rectory purchased in Sundridge for \$575.; 1940, it was torn down and new one erected in 1941.

From 1941-1954 there were just two incumbents: Canon R. H. Fleming (1941-48), and Rev. L. B. Willis (1948-54). Renovations were made to both church and rectory during Mr. Willis' ministry. Canon S. F. Yeomans was in charge from 1954-56. Summer students A. F. Thompson (1956) and E. D. Eldridge (1957) and Rev. C. F. Passey until June 1, 1958, when the Rev. E. D. Eldridge returned to the parish as Priest-in-charge.

1958: new basement and entrance constructed; kitchen and oil furnace installed. Total cost \$8000. Oil furnace installed in rectory.

March 5, 1960, St. Paul's entirely destroyed by fire. March 13, Special Vestry, to build new church. April 18, 1960, architect's plans for new church approved, (cost estimated \$26,500.); May 26, 1960, corner stone laid by the late Canon E. F. Pinnington;

November 13, 1960, church was dedicated by Archbishop Wright.

The Rev. E. D. Eldridge left in the Spring of 1961 and there followed two brief ministries. One by Mr. McKenzie Smith (who died in an accident) and the Rev. Ross Crighton filled in from Burks Falls until October, 1962.

This concludes the first 75 years of parish history except to pay tribute to a flourishing S.S. and Youth Program at the present time and to say thanks to the Past St. Paul's W.A., which the records mention many times. And while many individuals contributed much to the life and work of St. Paul's the following stand out: The Edgar family, Mr. A. M. Church (43 years warden) and Mr. David Dawson (15 years warden); also Hugh Swanson and George Russell, wardens, during the rebuilding of the present church by Clarence Russell.

#### ST. JOHN'S — EAGLE LAKE

Like most early settlers, those who came to the Eagle Lake area of Machar Township, felt the need of a Church in which to worship. There were two denominational strains involved—Anglican and Presbyterian. The first church to be built was at the Bridge and was a united effort. However, when it came to having it consecrated by a Bishop, the Presbyterians did not feel this necessary, and what was planned as a united church became Presbyterian, and the Anglicans, headed it would seem by Mr. Thomas Quirt, built a church of their own at the north end of Eagle Lake where Mr. Walter Joy contributed an acre of land. The building was erected during the spring of 1888 and the first service was held on July 22nd, 1888.

On March 6, 1889, Bishop Sullivan, Lord Bishop of Algoma, administered the Rite of Confirmation when seven were confirmed, and celebrated Holy Communion.

St. John's Church, Eagle Lake, has never been consecrated, which has come as a surprise to those who were searching for information to write this historical sketch in 1964. It seems ironical that the first building was abandoned by the Anglicans when the Presbyterians did not want it consecrated by an Anglican Bishop, but when they built an Anglican Church it had still not been consecrated 76 years later. It did not seem to be an issue any longer.

The first Parish Priest was Rev. George Gander and he served from 1887 to 1899. A record dated January 31, 1889, shows that

of 44 adults and children the following families were represented: the Smyths, the Ardiels, the Joys, the Quirts, the Bensons, the Tar-diffs and the Leslies.

In June, 1903, when Rev. E. J. McKittrick was the Priest-in-charge, a driving shed was built, and the first organ, purchased two years previously, was paid for. It should be noted that St. John's, Eagle Lake, was one of a three-point charge, Grace Church, South River, and St. Paul's, Sundridge, being the other two. Most of the time the rectory has been in Sundridge.

When the Rev. L. A. Trotter was incumbent the church was completely renovated in 1912-13. The vestry was built, a stone foundation put under the church and a complete paint job done,—the pews being grained (a childhood memory of our generation). An elderly man, Mr. Peck, worked at it during the winter, living at Grandad Qirt's while he did it.

Canon E. F. Pinnington arrived just after this face-lifting, but only served three years before he became a First World War Padre. He walked from Sundridge to South River, to Eagle Lake and back to Sundridge on most Sundays. Canon Pinnington served long in the Diocese of Algoma, passing away at Port Sydney about 1962.

A yearly highlight was a picnic held in a maple wood off the road between Jack and Arthur Smyth's farms.

A Wardens' report in 1904 tells of Sunday School being held on 16 Sundays with an average attendance of 23 children. Mr. Jack Smyth was the Superintendent. Many years later, Sunday School was held during the summer months and there was usually a picnic for the children, but nothing to compare with the early picnics, the centre of which was the stand, where ice cream, oranges and candy were sold.

There were adverse years for this mission and especially at Eagle Lake, the clergy seemed to concentrate on South River and Sundridge and did good jobs there. Many of the original families, the Smyths and Quirts especially, moved away and older members of original families passed away. However, better days were in store for St. John's, Eagle Lake.

It seems to the present writer that the beginning of a resurgence began one summer when Frank Thompson, now Dr. Thompson, on the staff of Bishop's College, Calcutta, India, was a student minister. He and his wife, Elaine (daughter of Bishop H. R. Hunt, of Tor-

onto Diocese) had been in school work in India. Their missionary enthusiasm seemed to light a spark, and in the incumbency of Rev. Ernest Eldridge it burst into a flame of renovation for St. John's. During 1958 and 1959 the building was completely renovated, both inside and out. The grounds and the cemetery also were improved. Those chiefly responsible for this work were the Hawthornes and Towles, with some help from tourists.

On August 23, 1959, the little church was filled to overflowing when the Quirt family incorporated a church service into their reunion, the special purpose of which was to unveil a plaque in memory of Thomas and Susan Quirt and in appreciation of the members of their family, almost all of whom had already passed on. The plaque was unveiled by Mrs. R. J. McKinney (Susan Quirt) the one surviving member of the original family. The Rev. Ernest Eldridge conducted the service and preached the sermon, giving a short sketch of the 71 years' history of St. John's Church, Eagle Lake.

Services are held weekly at St. John's during the summer, with a good attendance of tourists and regular parishioners. From its door can be seen the panorama of a summer resort area with Silver Springs Lodge, where Charles Quirt's saw-mill used to stand, and Midford Bungalows on Arthur Smyth's farm, reminiscent of the days when Midford P.O. was operated by the Smyths.

The passing of 76 years has seen many changes: a farming and lumbering community becoming chiefly a tourist area, descendants of original families scattered far and wide, but returning in motor cars over surfaced roads to look at old homesteads, closed rural schools, or to spend a few days or weeks in cottages on the shores of lovely Eagle Lake. Probably St. John's Church has changed less than anything else, and still is the place where an unchangeable God is worshipped.

#### *Conclusion*

Having sketched the history of the churches included in the Parish, I come to the big event in their individual histories — their union in the Combined Parish, on December 23, 1963, under the direction of our popular Rector, Rev. A. R. Cuyler. By combining together for self-support, \$2800. was released for work elsewhere. The old rectory in Burks Falls was sold, and a \$4500. addition

made to the Rectory in Sundridge, which is now one of which any parish might well be proud. A chapter of the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen was formed and has done good work, its annual picnic on the first Sunday after Labour Day being already an eagerly awaited event. The W.A.'s in the various churches continue to do their good work. All in all, we face the future with confidence.

I would close with this prayer of Rev. George Gander, three score and seven years ago today, which seems singularly appropriate for us all: "*O Lord, give strength and grace to be more faithful to Thee through the New Year.*"

The Old Rectory,  
Burks Falls, Ontario,  
January 1st, 1965.

#### APPENDIX

(Report to the S. P. G. of Rev. W. B. Magnan, Missionary at  
Burks Falls, for the quarter ending March 31, 1885)

Gentlemen:

"Since presenting my last report to the Society, my Mission has been stirred and enlivened by the second annual visitation of our present beloved Bishop; this being, however, his first visitation since the Mission was entrusted to my care.

"His Lordship came into the Mission on the afternoon of January 28th, and at 3 p.m. we had Divine Service in St. Margaret's Church, Cyprus, when the Bishop preached and celebrated the Holy Communion. The following day was occupied with Church business at Emsdale. On the 30th, the Township of Bethune was visited. Here we have no church building at present, nor is there even a school house in the vicinity that could be used for this purpose, the township being only very recently settled. Divine Service was held here in the humble log shantie of one of our members who kindly placed it at my disposal, and I have service here every fortnight. The people turned out splendidly and the service was followed by a business meeting at which arrangements were made for the erection of a small frame church, so far as the scanty funds in hand will permit.

"Next day, All Souls' Church, Beggsboro, was visited. This church, built by W. Crompton, has for some time been without the services of a clergyman, but was now placed *temporarily* under my care. On Sunday, Matins was said in St. Mark's, Emsdale, and the apostolic rite of Confirmation administered to five candidates (2 males and 3 females). At 3 p.m., Evensong was said and Holy Communion administered in the school house at Burks Falls, and now more than ever did we feel the want of our *church*, the sad fate of which formed a portion of my last report to the Society. During this visit of the Bishop, arrangements were made for commencing the building of a new church upon the same site on which the late ill-fated one stood.

"On Monday we proceeded to Starratt in the Township of Ryerson, where a new church (St. Margaret's), lately built by the Rev. Mr. Crompton, was opened by his Lordship and placed under my care *pro tem*. The next morning the Bishop left the Mission, leaving behind him, I feel certain, much blessing throughout the entire Mission."

Report to the S. P. G. of Rev. W. B. Magnan, Missionary at  
Burks Falls, for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1885)

Gentlemen:

"My report to the Society exactly twelve months ago contained the *lamentable* news of the burning down of the Church building in this village, which took place a couple of weeks previous to my occupation of the village. It is now my *pleasant* duty to record the erection of a fine new frame church, of which the tidy neatness and churchy appearance will be indeed quite an ornament to our rapidly growing village.

"Our brethren in the sister Dioceses of Canada responded so promptly and nobly to our good Bishop's appeal on our behalf as soon as the news of our disaster came to their ears, that during the summer and winter of last year sufficient funds came in to enable us to commence the building this spring. It has gone on steadily during the summer, and the building is now all but completed and we hope to have it formally opened on All Saints' Day. The building is frame, 56 ft. in length, including chancel, and 22 ft. in breadth, containing good sized vestry, porch and organ chamber in chancel.

"In Bethune, another section of my extensive Mission, a new church has been just partially erected; it is so far completed as to permit of our occupying it for Divine Service as soon as we have funds wherewith to furnish it. We also need about \$200. to complete the building.

"I trust I shall be in a position to give you an account of our opening services at both of these churches in my next report.

"St. Mark's, Emsdale, my centre station, has lately received a grant of money from S. P. C. K., which is to be applied to the fixing up of the interior of the building. This work will (D.V.) be executed before the cold weather sets in.

"The rest of the work in the Mission progresses much as usual."

